

What Ed from Strongsville is talking about is the President and the administration have lost sight of going after Osama bin Laden, lost sight of going after al Qaeda, lost sight of protecting us at home, lost sight of spending money on our security at home, from jobs to homeland security, and, instead, has gone into another country and is spending these untold billions on reconstructing Iraq.

Ed concludes by saying: It is time for a constructive effort to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have received hundreds, thousands of letters from our constituents upset about this policy and they want some direction. They want no more corruption in Iraq.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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HOUSE SHOULD ELIMINATE DEATH TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor again. This is my fourth or fifth week of coming down at least one time a week to remind the leadership of the House, both Republican and Democrat, that each and every time a man or woman dies for this country, whether it be in training or in Iraq or Afghanistan, when the family not only buries that loved one, the next year they will receive a tax from Uncle Sam on a small amount of money called a death gratuity. It is \$6,000.

I have a bill in, and it is my second year of introducing legislation to eliminate that tax. It was put on by mistake in the early 1990s; but since that time, everyone in uniform that has died for this country, whether peacetime or wartime, the families have paid the gift of that child who died for freedom, particularly now in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Behind me are the faces of those, just a few, who have given their lives for America. Outside of my office, 422 Cannon, we update each and every week the faces of those who have given their lives.

It touches one's heart to see people walking down the hall stop to take a moment to look into the faces of those who have died for freedom. That is the purpose of honoring those who have given their lives and families, by having people never forget there is an expensive cost for freedom, and that is the lives of those who have given their lives for this great Nation. I am hopeful that the leadership will be bringing legislation to the floor that will reduce and eliminate that tax on the death gratuity.

Mr. Speaker, I show this photograph of a young man whose name is Tyler Jordan. Tyler is from Connecticut. His father was Marine Gunnery Sergeant Philip Jordan. This was one of the shots I saw in the newspaper that touched my heart so much that I contacted the photographer and asked him to buy this photograph. This young man is 6 years old. He has the American flag under his arm which draped his father's coffin, and he is looking at the coffin holding his father.

The reason I keep bringing this to the floor along with these other photographs is because this Congress cannot leave this year without passing legislation to eliminate the tax on the death gratuity. For this young man and his family to receive a bill from Uncle Sam in 2004 to pay the tax on the gift of his father, and the husband and son, it just does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and I have been working on this issue, and I have been told that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) will be bringing legislation to the floor that will increase the death gratuity and also eliminate the tax. I am pleased to say that I know that every Member of Congress on both sides of the aisle will join us in passing the legislation and send it to the other body, and plead with the other body to please pass the same legislation and send it to the President before we end this year. It is wrong and unacceptable that any family that gives a loved one to this Nation for freedom would be sent a bill from Uncle Sam. I am pleased that I have been told that there will be legislation coming to the floor that will eliminate the tax and also will raise the death gratuity.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember that these men and women who have given their lives for this country, that the families have given enough and they need not give any more to Uncle Sam.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless their families, for God to please hold in his loving arms those who have given a loved one for freedom. I ask God to please bless the young men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of the Lord. I ask God to please give the President of the United States wisdom, courage, and strength to do what is right.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking three times, please God, please God, please God, please God continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO TERRI SCHINDLER-SCHIAVO

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to speak for the life of a fellow citizen, Ms. Terri Schindler-Schiavo. Her story has been heard worldwide and I join millions across the world, including our Governor, Jeb Bush, to urge that her feeding tube be replaced and her life spared.

According to the web site established on her behalf, Terri was 26 years old when she suffered brain damage from a sudden collapse. She receives her food and water by means of a feeding tube. Terri's other bodily functions are physically stable. Terri smiles, laughs and cries. Terri recognizes voices and responds. At times, she vocalizes sounds, trying in her best way to speak.

While these situations are heart-breaking for all of those involved, we need to remember that all life is precious. It is not for us to measure what constitutes "valuable life v. invaluable." We never know how one's life may impact others. While Terri's life seems "a waste" or "over" to others, she obviously brings delight and happiness to her family and those around her. Her parents and siblings have fought in court to keep Terri alive.

Members, the prospect of a society that places price-tags on human life, is terrifying. We must uphold the American precedent that ". . . All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life . . ." I stand in support of Terri's family, as well as our Governor and State leaders who are trying to preserve this precious life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.